Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155172 ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /077 R

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-----042543 021940Z /61

P R 021917Z JUL 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY INFO USNMR SHAPE USLOSACLANT

UNCLAS STATE 155172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: 1978 NATO DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM

REF: USNATO 6303, DTG 011155Z JUL 77

- 1. AMBASSADOR KOMER HAS AGREED TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT SYMPOSIUM; YOU MAY SO INDICATE.
- 2. WE SUPPORT STRONGLY USING THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AS FOCUS OF THE SYMPOSIUM.
- 3. WE CONSIDER SYMPOSIUM HIGHLY USEFUL FORUM FOR NATIONAL SENIOR-LEVEL DISCUSSION OF POLICY ASPECTS, PROBLEMS, PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 155172

EXPECT TO INVITE SENIOR SERVICE PLANNERS (TWO AND THREE-STAR LEVEL) TO ATTEND AS PART OF US PARTICIPATING GROUP, ALONG WITH SENIOR DOD AND STATE PLANNERS.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT SYMPOSIUM NOT BE LIMITED TO THREE DAYS, SINCE THIS OFFERS RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD MEASURED AGAINST TRAVEL EXPENSES. MOREOVER, WE WOULD FIND THREE

DAYS INADEQUATE FOR SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE. AS A MINIMUM WE WOULD SUGGEST AN ADDITIONAL DAY OF SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSIONS, COVERING FIELD OF STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY.

- 5. IN ORDER TO MAKE TIME AVAILABLE FOR A LONGER SYMPOSIUM WE SUGGEST THAT WORKSHOP BE SCHEDULED SEPARATELY, NOT NECESSARILY IN OBERAMMERGAU. ROME WORKSHOP WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED FROM CAPITALS, WHICH FITTED ITS PURPOSE AS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. SEPARATING WORKSHOP FROM SYMPOSIUM HAS ADVANTAGE OF NOT DILUTING SYMPOSIUM ATTENDANCE WITH WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND VICE VERSA. THE TWO SESSIONS WORKED WELL IN 1977 AS SEPARATE ACTIVITIES; WE SEE NO NEED FOR AN ATTEMPT AT ARTIFICIAL CROSS-FERTILIZATION IN 1978, GIVEN SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF SYMPOSIUM PARTICULARLY IF NATIONAL ATTENDANCE CAN TAKE ON SPECIAL CHARACTER ANTICIPATED IN US PARTICIPATING GROUP.
- 6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF PROPOSED COVERAGE FOR THIRD DAY (EXPERIENCE).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, SEMINARS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 02-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE155172
Document Source: Concument Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JTYLER Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770237-0389

Format: TEL From: STATE JOINT Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770794/aaaadebk.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 50395171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 18-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1974132 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: 1978 NATO DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM

TAGS: MPOL, NATO To: NATO BRUSSELS

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50395171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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